

Political Science 715: International Relations Theory

Spring 2021

T 6:00- 8:45, Online via Zoom

Professor

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Course Description

The objectives of this course are:

1. To understand the scope and breadth of the theoretical literature that has defined the study of international relations.
2. To identify the strengths and weaknesses of the theoretical paradigms represented in that literature.
3. To define puzzles, specific research questions, and methodological gaps that must be addressed by future research.
4. To prepare students for preliminary examinations in international relations and equip them for pursuing careers in the field.

It is, of course, impossible to provide a comprehensive review of the entire field of international relations in a single semester. The readings and discussions in this course seek to strike a balance between traditional works that define the evolution of the field and contemporary works that highlight the development of our knowledge and possible directions for future research. Some of the materials in this course rely on technical tools (such as econometrics or formal theory). Students are not expected to be familiar with these tools prior to enrolling in the course but will become familiar with them during the semester.

Course Requirements

- **Response Papers, 20%:** In order to encourage active thinking about the readings and discussion in class, students will write four brief commentaries (3-4 pages, single-spaced) on the readings for a particular week. Students should seek in these notes to engage one or more themes in the works, discuss their strengths and weaknesses, and suggest future research questions facing that area of the literature. Students will sign up for their weeks via a Doodle poll circulated at the first class meeting. The papers will be circulated electronically to the entire class and **are due by 5:00 pm on the day prior to class**. Please circulate papers via email on Blackboard.
- **Participation, 20%:** Students will be expected to come to class fully prepared to engage in a robust, informed discussion of the readings and the problems for the field of international relations raised by the readings. This material is new to everyone, so questions are always encouraged, as is identifying material you do not understand or agree with.
- **Discussion Leadership, 10%:** Two students will serve as official “discussion leaders” each week. These duties will be assigned during the first week. As discussion leader, you and your partner will be responsible for organizing our use of class time for that session. You will determine how one can most effectively teach the material for that week. I encourage you to consult with me about your plan and any questions about the material beforehand. As discussion leaders, you are expected to involve *all* students in conversation about the readings.

- **Literature or Book Review, 30%:** The readings on this syllabus can only serve as a starting point from which students will engage additional important literature. Students will therefore write a literature or book review on a topic of interest to them that relates to one of the subjects addressed by this course. A book review will generally focus intensively on one or two books; a literature review will examine the development of a theme or problem through time and a larger number of readings. Either type of analysis should be 3,000-4,000 words. Students should consult with me prior to setting a topic. Ideally, this exercise should be useful to you as part of your research agenda - to that end, I am open to discussion about the final product provided that this discussion occurs early in the semester.
- **Final Exam, 20%:** Students will take a one-day examination that will be patterned on the preliminary examinations that graduate students must pass before they may advance to the dissertation stage of the PhD program.
- **Alternative Final Assessment, 20%:** Students who are not in need of preparation for preliminary exams may instead write a final essay that bridges what we have learned in this course with their primary field of study or area of interest.

Honor Code: The Carolinian Creed ([at this website](#)) is in effect in this class and all others at the University.

[Non]Required Texts

You are not required to purchase any books for this class. Where applicable, book chapters will be scanned and uploaded to Blackboard or available as an eBook through the UofSC library. All other readings will be similarly posted or available via the library. However, you are always encouraged to acquire *and read additional chapters out of* the foundational texts - you'll thank yourself later. The books below, which we will consult in class, are particularly recommended for purchase:

- Wagner, R. Harrison. *War and the State: The Theory of International Politics*. University of Michigan Press, 2007.
- Bueno de Mesquita, B., A. Smith, R. Siverson, & J.D. Morrow *The Logic of Political Survival*. MIT Press, 2003.
- Vasquez, J. *What do We Know About War?* Rowman & Littlefield, 2012.
- Waltz, K. *Theory of International Relations*. McGraw-Hill, 1979.

Becoming a Member of the Academic Community

While your coursework is an important part of becoming a member of the academic community, your effort should by no means stop there. It is expected that you will familiarize yourself with and frequently consult the main IR journals (which we will cover in class). If your reading begins and ends with the contents of your syllabi, you are not fulfilling your obligations as a graduate student. If your major or minor field is IR, it is also expected that you will attend IR/CP lunch meetings regularly. Finally, your faculty here at Uof SC are an important resource. I am always happy to discuss your research, provide feedback, or answer questions related to the discipline. Please make use of office hours/the opportunity to meet!

Class Schedule

January 12: What are we doing here?

- Zinnes, D. "Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher"
- Bueno de Mesquita, B. "Toward a Scientific Understanding of International Conflict."
- Wagner, R.H. *War and the State*, Chapter 1.

January 19: Development of the 'Isms'

- Waltz, K. *Theory of International Politics*. pp. 79-128, 161-193.
- Nexon, D. "The Balance of Power in the Balance." *World Politics*. 2009
- Axelrod, R. and Keohane, R. "Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions." *World Politics*, 1985.
- Lake, D. "Escape from the State of Nature: Authority and Hierarchy in World Politics." *International Security*, 2007.
Recommended:
 - Bessner, D. and Guillhot, N. "How Realism Waltzed Off: Liberalism and Decisionmaking in Kenneth Waltz's Neorealism" *International Security*, 2015.
 - Walt, S. "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power." *International Security*, 1985.

January 26: Constructivist, Feminist, and Critical Theories

Guest: Dr. Katelyn Stauffer, USC

- Wendt, A. "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics." *International Organization*, 1992.
- Finnemore, M. and Sikkink, K. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization*, 1998.
- Tickner, J.A. "You Just Don't Understand: Troubled Engagements between Feminists and an IR Theorist." *International Studies Quarterly*, 1997.
- Sjoberg, L. "Gender, Structure, and War: What Waltz Couldn't See." *International Theory*, 2012.
- Caprioli, M. "Feminist IR Theory and Quantitative Methodology: A Critical Analysis." *International Studies Review*, 2004.
Recommended:
 - Enloe, C. "Good is Not Enough: The Need for a Feminist Consciousness." *International Affairs*, 2004.
 - Frederking, B. "Constructing Post-Cold War Collective Security." *The American Political Science Review*, 2003.

February 2: Toward Rationality

- Fearon, J. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization*, 1995.

- Powell, R. "War as a Commitment Problem." *International Organization*, 2006.
- Gartzke, E. "War is In the Error Term." *International Organization*, 1999.
- Fearon, J. and Wendt, A. "Rationalism v. Constructivism: A Skeptical View" *Handbook of International Relations*, 2002.

Recommended:

- Shultz, K. "The Enforcement Problem in Coercive Bargaining: Interstate Conflict over Rebel Support in Civil Wars." *International Organization*, 2010.
- Fearon, J. "Signaling Versus the Balance of Power and Interests: An Empirical Test of a Crisis Bargaining Model" *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 1994.

February 9: The Bargaining Model

- Wagner, R. H. *War and the State*, Chapters 2-5.
- Fearon, J. "Comments on R Harrison Wagner's War and the State", *International Theory*, 2010.
- Powell, R. "Bargaining Theory and International Conflict." *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2002.

Recommended:

- Schelling, T. *The Strategy of Conflict*, Chapter 2. 1960.
- Filson, D. and Warner, S. "A Bargaining Model of War and Peace Anticipating the Onset, Duration, and Outcome of War" *American Journal of Political Science*, 2002.
- Lake, D. "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations for the Iraq War." *International Security*, 2010.

February 16: After Rational Choice? Behavioral Approaches

- Kertzer, J. "Resolve, Time, and Risk." *International Organization*, 2017.
- Renshon, J., Lee, J. and Tingley, D. "Emotions and the Micro-Foundations of Commitment Problems." *International Organization*, 2017.
- Canetti, D, Khatib, I, Rubin, A. and Wayne, C. "Framing and Fighting: The Impact of Conflict Frames on Political Attitudes." *Journal of Peace Research*. 2019.
- Horowitz, M., McDermott, R., and Stam, A. "Leader Age, Regime Type, and Violent International Relations." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 2005.
- Schwartz, J. and Blair, C. "Do Women Make More Credible Threats? Gender Stereotypes, Audience Costs, and Crisis Bargaining." *International Organization*, 2020.

Recommended:

- Mercer, J. "Emotional Beliefs." *International Organization*, 2010.
- Tingley, D. "The Dark Side of the Future? An Experimental Test of Commitment Problems in Bargaining." *International Studies Quarterly*, 2011.

February 23: Forms of Cooperation: IOs and Law

Guest: Dr. Rebecca Cordell, University of Texas at Dallas

- Martin, L. and Simmons, B. "International Organizations and Institutions" *Sage Handbook*, Chapter 13, 2013.
- Fortna, V. P. "Scraps of Paper? Agreements and the Durability of Peace." *International Organization*, 2003.
- Hafner-Burton, E. "Sticks and Stones: Naming and Shaming the Human Rights Enforcement Problem." *International Organization*, 2008
- Koremenos, B. "Contracting Around International Uncertainty" *The American Political Science Review*, 2005.
- Copelovitch, M. and Putnam, T. "Design in Context: Existing International Agreements and New Cooperation." *International Organization*, 2014.

Recommended:

- Koremenos, B., Lipson, C., Snidal, D. "The Rational Design of International Institutions." *International Organization*, 2001
- Mitchell, S. and Hensel, P. "International Institutions and Compliance With Agreements." *American Journal of Political Science*, 2007.

March 2: Cooperation and Coercion: Alliances, Foreign Aid, and Sanctions

Guest: Dr. Jen Spindel, University of New Hampshire

- Leeds, B.A. "Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on Militarized Interstate Disputes." *The American Journal of Political Science*, 2003.
- Bapat, N. and Kwon, BR., "When are Sanctions Effective? A Bargaining and Enforcement Framework." *International Organization*, 2015.
- Heinrich, T., Kobayashi, Y. and Long, L. "Voters Get What They Want (When They Pay Attention): Human Rights, Policy Benefits, and Foreign Aid." *International Studies Quarterly*, 2018.
- Velasco, K. "A Growing Queer Divide: The Divergence Between Transnational Advocacy Networks and Foreign Aid in Diffusing LGBTQ Policies." *International Studies Quarterly*, 2020.
- Benson, B. "Unpacking Alliances: Deterrent and Compellent Alliances and their Relationship with Conflict, 1816-2000." *The Journal of Politics*, 2011.

Recommended:

- Fuhrmann, M. and Sechser, T. "Signaling Alliance Commitments: Hand-Tying and Sunk Costs in Extended Nuclear Deterrence", *American Journal of Political Science*, 2014.
- Morgan, T.C. "Hearing the Noise: Economic Sanctions Theory and Anomalous Evidence." *International Interactions*, 2015.
- Bueno de Mesquita, B. and Smith, A. "Foreign Aid and Policy Concessions." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 2007.
- Fordham, B. "Trade and Asymmetric Alliances." *Journal of Peace Research*, 2010.

March 9: Learning, Reputation, and Non-Dyadic Approaches

- Renshon, J., Dafoe, A. and Huth, P. "Leader Influence and Reputation Formation in World Politics." *American Journal of Political Science*, 2018.
- Crescenzi, M. "Reputation and Interstate Conflict." *The American Journal of Political Science*, 2007.

- Yarhi-Milo, K. "In the Eye of the Beholder: How Leaders and Intelligence Communities Assess the Intentions of Adversaries." *International Security*, 2013.
- Hafner-Burton, E., Kahler, M. and Montgomery, A. "Network Analysis for International Relations." *International Organization*, 2009.
- Glasius, M., Schalk, J. and De Lange, M. "Illiberal Norm Diffusion: How do Governments Learn to Restrict Non-governmental Organizations?" *International Studies Quarterly*, 2020. Recommended:
 - Walter, B. "Building Reputation: Why Governments Fight Some Separatists but Not Others." *American Journal of Political Science*, 2006.
 - Kydd, A. "Trust, Reassurance, and Cooperation." *International Organization*, 2006.
 - Yarhi-Milo, K., Kertzer, J. and Renshon, J., "Tying Hands, Sinking Costs, and Leader Attributes." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 2018.
 - Clay, K.C. and Owsiak, A. "The Diffusion of International Border Agreements." *The Journal of Politics*, 2016.

March 16: Domestic Politics in IR

- Leeds, B.A., Mattes, M. and Vogel, J. "Interests, Institutions, and the Reliability of International Commitments." *American Journal of Political Science*, 2009.
- Mattes, M. and Rodriguez, M. "Autocracies and International Cooperation" *International Studies Quarterly*, 2014.
- Tomz, M. and Weeks, J. "Public Opinion and the Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review*, 2013.
- Weeks, J. "Strongmen and Straw Men: Authoritarian Regimes and Initiation of International Conflict." *American Political Science Review*, 2012.
- Croco, S., Hanmer, M. and McDonald, J. "At What Cost? Re-examining Audience Costs in Realistic Settings." *The Journal of Politics*, 2020.

Recommended:

- Bueno de Mesquita, B., Morrow J., Smith, A. and Siverson, R. *The Logic of Political Survival*, 2003.
- Croco, S. "The Decider's Dilemma: Leader Culpability, War Outcomes, and Domestic Punishment." *The American Political Science Review*, 2011.
- Fearon, J. "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes." *American Political Science Review*, 1994.
- Gartzke, E. "The Capitalist Peace." *American Journal of Political Science*, 2007.

March 23: Wars Within States

Guest: Dr. Lindsay Reid, Gettysburg College

- Walter, B. "Bargaining Failures and Civil War." *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2009.
- Gent, S. "Going in When it Counts: Military Intervention and the Outcome of Civil Conflicts." *International Studies Quarterly*, 2008.
- Weinstein, J. "Resources and the Information Problem in Rebel Recruitment." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 2005.
- Fortna, S. "Do Terrorists Win? Rebels' Use of Terrorism and Civil War Outcomes." *International Organization*, 2015.

- Stewart, M. "Civil War as State-Making: Strategic Governance in Civil War." *International Organization*, 2018.

Recommended:

- Fearon, J. and Laitin, D. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review*, 2003.
- Sambanis, N. "What is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 2004.
- Reid, L. "Finding a Peace That Lasts: Mediator Leverage and the Durable Resolution of Civil Wars." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 2015
- Cunningham, D. "Veto Players and Civil War Duration" *American Journal of Political Science*, 2006.

March 30

- University Wellness Day

April 6: Other Forms of Violence

- Cunningham, K.G., Dahl, M. and Frugé, A. "Strategies of Resistance: Diversification and Diffusion." *American Journal of Political Science*, 2017.
- Ritter, E. and Conrad, C. "Preventing and Responding to Dissent: The Observational Challenges of Explaining Strategic Representation." *American Political Science Review*, 2016.
- Estancona, C. "Rebel Primary Commodity Markets, Price Shocks, and Supplier Victimization." *Working Paper*.
- Bueno de Mesquita, E. "The Quality of Terror." *American Journal of Political Science*, 2005.
- Clayton, G. and Thomson, A. "Civilianizing Civil Conflict: Civilian Defense Militias and the Logic of Violence in Intrastate Conflict." *International Studies Quarterly*, 2016.

Recommended:

- Cunningham, K.G. "Understanding Strategic Choice: The Determinants of Civil War and Nonviolent Campaign in Self-Determination Disputes" *Journal of Peace Research*, 2013.
- Bapat, N. *Monsters to Destroy: Understanding the War on Terror*, Chapter 3. 2019.
- Asal, V., Rethemeyer, R.K., and Schoon, E. "Crime, Conflict, and the Legitimacy Trade-Off: Explaining Variation in Insurgents' Participation in Crime." *Journal of Politics*, 2019.

April 13: International Economic Interactions

- Peterson, T. "Dyadic Trade, Exit Costs, and Conflict." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 2013.
- Gowa, J. and Mansfield, E. "Power Politics and International Trade." *American Political Science Review*, 1993.
- Guisinger, A. "Determining Trade Policy: Do Voters Hold Politicians Accountable?" *International Organization*, 2009.
- Wibbels, E. "Dependency Revisted: International Financial Markets and National Welfare States." *International Organization*, 2006.
- Bermeo, S. and Leblang, D. "Migration and Foreign Aid." *International Organization*, 2015.

Recommended:

- Mansfield, E. and Mutz, D. “Support for Free Trade: Self-Interest, Sociotropic Voting, and Out-Group Anxiety.” *International Organization*, 2009.
- Oatley, T. “The Reductionist Gamble: Open Economy Politics in the Global Economy.” *International Organization*, 2011.
- Buthe, T. and Milner, H. “The Politics of Foreign Direct Investment into Developing Countries: Increasing FDI through International Trade Agreements” *American Journal of Political Science*, 2008.

April 20: Where are we going?

- Kostyuk, N. and Wayne, C. “The Micro-foundations of State Cybersecurity: Cyber Risk Perceptions and the Mass Public.” *Journal of Global Security Studies*, 2020.
- Kristensen, P.M. “International Relations at the End: A Sociological Autopsy.” *International Relations Quarterly*, 2018.
- Thomas, J. and Bond, K. “Women’s Participation in Violent Political Organizations.” *American Political Science Review*, 2015.
- Kalah Gade, E., Hafez, M. and Gabbay, M. “Fratricide in rebel movements: A network Analysis of Syrian militant infighting.” *Journal of Peace Research*, 2019.
- Mitchell, S.M. and Zawahri, N. “The Effectiveness of Treaty Design in Addressing Water Disputes.” *Journal of Peace Research*, 2015.

Recommended:

- Williams, R., Gustafson, D., Gent, S. and Crescenzi, M. “A latent variable approach to measuring and explaining peace agreement strength.” *Political Science Research and Methods*, 2019.
- Chaudoin, S., Milner, H. and Pang, X., “International Systems and Domestic Politics: Linking Complex Interactions with Empirical Models in International Relations.” *International Organization*, 2015.